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## Midwest Drug Firms Aid Cuban Prisoner Exchange

Five midwest drug manufacturers are donating millions of dollars worth of drugs to help satisfy Cuba's demands in the Bay of Pigs prisoners exchange.

The five are among numerous drug firms thruout the country that will provide what one drug official said will amount to 23 million dollars [wholesale price] in medicines to the Castro government.

They are: G.D. Searle and company, Skokie; Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago; Baxter Laboratories, Morton Grove; Armour Pharmaceuticals, Bradley, and Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis.

### On Way to Florida

The Lilly company announced that its donation is valued at \$2,300,000. The first shipment, approximately one half the donation left Indianapolis by truck yesterday for Fort Everglades, Fla.

The company said the drugs will not be forwarded to Cuba until assurances are given by Premier Castro that the prisoners will be released.

Other manufacturers said either they do not know the value of their donations or that the figures must be released by the Red Cross, which solicited the supplies. The Red Cross in Washington said the list of contributions was incomplete.

Donating firms apparently will receive a tax writeoff.

John G. Searle, president of G. D. Searle & Co., said his firm will supply a "substantial quantity" of products. These include anti-ulcer preparations, tranquilizers, cardiac drugs, and intravenous solutions.

"We know the kinds and types of things they need, and how much, the Cubans bought

from us prior to the fiasco," Searle said. "We are sending a great deal more than they bought."

### May Go By Plane

Searle said he understood a plane would take the supplies from O'Hare airport.

Abbott Laboratories said its donation would "quite big," probably less than of the Lilly company. Abbott is providing intravenous solutions, medical chemicals in bulk, antibiotics, and other items.

An Abbott spokesman said the company was waiting to hear from the Red Cross on how the shipment will be handled.

Abbott had a large distribution plant in Cuba which was one of the first foreign operations that Castro shut down.

### Await Word on Shipment

Baxter Laboratories will supply intravenous solutions, a solution used with artificial kidney machines, and some blood typing serum. The firm is awaiting a go-ahead to ship.

Armour Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Armour & Co., will provide hormones and other products.

Red Cross headquarters said medical requests from Castro were fairly specific. They were sent to the industry thru the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers association, Washington, which has 140 member firms that make prescription drugs.